

# NEWS from

## The Savannah River Site

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Contact: Fran Poda  
(803) 952-4390  
frances.poda@srs.gov

For Immediate Release

### **LAST HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL REMOVED FROM F CANYON**

AIKEN, S.C., Jan. 30 – Westinghouse Savannah River Company reached a significant milestone in late January when it successfully completed a continuous transfer of 30,000 gallons of highly radioactive Americium/Curium solution from the Savannah River Site's F Canyon to H Tank Farm.

The transfer was significant because it was the last of F Canyon's highly radioactive material, and because it was the first time such a large amount of material was transferred at one time. In the past, the system and the controls in place allowed for only small amount of material to be transferred at once.

After two years of work to change those restraints, and an enormous amount of teamwork, the transfer took place seamlessly. Cold runs were conducted late last year to ensure all facility modifications and other changes were working as designed.

The material is now in H Tank Farm's tank 51, where it will be part of the next large sludge batch to be vitrified in the Defense Waste Processing Facility.

The transfer took about 18 hours, as the material traveled through more than two miles of pipes, from F Canyon to F Tank Farm, then through an inter-area transfer line to H Tank Farm. Eight different control rooms worked together simultaneously and seamlessly.

The transfer was completed more than two months ahead of schedule.

The successful transfer is a major step for F Canyon's suspension efforts, says WSRC's Acting Chief Closure Officer Bill Johnson. "Transferring the Am/Cm material is a significant milestone that will help ensure successful suspension of the canyon, and is a major step forward in our goals of accelerated closure and risk reduction."

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